



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY OF
JEFFREY S. CRAWFORD
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SPEAKING NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 866
AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED REFRIGERATION TECHNOLOGIES
SPONSORED BY REP. LYFORD

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE OF HEARING:

MARCH 7, 2022

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Committee, I am Jeffrey Crawford, Director of the Bureau of Air Quality at the Department of Environmental Protection, commenting neither for nor against L.D. 866.

On June 14, 2021 Governor Mills signed into law L.D. 226, An Act to Limit the Use of Hydrofluorocarbons to Fight Climate Change. This was enacted as Maine Public Law, Chapter 192 of 2021, and established limitations on the use of certain

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hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, in certain specific end-use categories. Some HFCs have been identified as powerful greenhouse gases, and as such are the focus of a multi-state effort to restrict their use to help fight climate change. In addition to establishing statutory prohibitions, Chapter 192 directed the Department to promulgate rules implementing these statutory requirements.

The Department initiated rulemaking on these requirements last October, and on December 16, 2021, the Board of Environmental Protection adopted the Department's 06-096 C.M.R. Chapter 147, *Hydrofluorocarbon Prohibitions* rule restricting the use of some HFCs in certain end-use categories, as of the dates established in statute.

As you know, this bill has two major elements. First, it provides that the technical standards adopted through Maine Electricians' Examining Board rules must allow a licensed electrician to install a distributed refrigeration module and related components so long as the electrical inspector of jurisdiction finds that the installation does not pose a substantial risk of danger or injury to property and the public. Second, the proposal amends the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Trust Fund to authorize the allocation of trust funds for assistance in the retrofitting or replacement of existing products and equipment with products or equipment that use refrigerants with substantially reduced global warming potential.

The Department has determined that the bill as proposed would not impact the HFC prohibitions established in either Title 38 or the Department's Chapter 147.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.